

MODIFIED CLAIMS

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Original claim 1 replaced by new claims 3, 4 and 5 [3 pages]

Claims

1. Item of footwear (1) intended for sports, in particular motorcycling, comprising:
 - a first rigid shell which defines a body (2) which is intended to receive the foot of a user and which extends in an extension direction (8),
 - a second rigid shell which defines an upper (4) which is intended to receive the leg of the user and which extends substantially in an upright direction (10),
 - an articulation (6) which connects the body and the upper, said articulation allowing rotation of the upper relative to the body in two axes of rotation (8, 12) which are substantially perpendicular to each other, characterised in that said articulation further allows translation of the axes of articulation relative to the body in order to bring the axes of rotation of the articulation substantially into alignment with the axes of rotation of the foot relative to the leg of the user.
2. Item of footwear according to claim 1, characterised in that the articulation comprises at least a resiliently deformable element (14, 14') which tends to move the item of footwear into an initial position.

3. Item of footwear according to claim 2, characterised in that, with the item of footwear having an inner face (1a) and an outer face (1b) which extend at one side and the other of a centre plane (P) which is defined by the extension direction (8) and the upright direction (10), each resiliently deformable element (14, 14') is positioned at the inner face (1a) or the outer face (1b) of the item of footwear, substantially level with the malleolus of the foot of the user.
4. Item of footwear according to claim 3, characterised in that the articulation comprises two resiliently deformable elements (14, 14') which are arranged symmetrically relative to the centre plane (P), one at the inner face (1a), the other at the outer face (1b), at both sides of the ankle of the user.
5. Item of footwear according to claim 4, characterised in that the two resiliently deformable elements (14, 14') have different mechanical properties.
6. Item of footwear according to any one of claims 2 to 5, characterised in that each resiliently deformable element comprises at least a flexible strip having an inwardly curved shape in the absence of any external stress.
7. Item of footwear according to claim 6, characterised in that each resiliently deformable element comprises two flexible strips (16, 18) which are substantially V-shaped or U-shaped so that each flexible strip comprises two branches (16a, 16b;

18a, 18b), each comprising a first end (16a₁, 16b₁, 18a₁, 18b₁) and a second end (16a₂, 16b₂, 18a₂, 18b₂), the first ends of each flexible strip being connected to each other and the second ends of each flexible strip being connected, in the case of one of the branches (16b, 18b), to the body and, in the case of the other branch (16a, 18a), to the upper.

8. Item of footwear according to claim 7, characterised in that it further comprises a resiliently deformable material (36) which is different from that of the branches and which extends between the branches of at least some of the flexible strips.
9. Item of footwear according to any one of claims 2 to 8, characterised in that the articulation further comprises at least a pivot (24, 26) which is interposed between the body and the upper and which guides the rotation of the upper relative to the body about a transverse direction (12) which is substantially perpendicular to the extension direction and the upright direction.
10. Item of footwear according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that, with the upright direction and the extension direction defining a centre plane, the item of footwear further comprises stops for limiting the extent of rotation (α_1 , α_2) in the centre plane to a value of between 50° and 60°.
11. Item of footwear according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it further comprises stops for limiting the extent of rotation

(θ_1, θ_2) in the extension direction to a value of between 25° and 35° .

12. Item of footwear according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said articulation allows translation only in the upright direction.
13. Item of footwear according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the two axes of articulation (8, 12) are substantially perpendicular to the upright direction (10).
14. Item of footwear according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the extent of translation of the axes of articulation relative to the body is between 5 millimetres and 15 millimetres.